



school bulletin

ISSUED BI-WEEKLY SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

January 22, 2010



MARCHING FOR DR. KING – Students from LBUSD's Male Academy marched in the city's 22nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace and Unity Parade on Saturday. The academy helps to cultivate high school student leaders and steer kids away from gangs and violence.

Gov.'s Initial Budget Slashes Billions More

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's initial budget proposal calls for more than \$2 billion in additional cuts to K-12 schools.

The budget proposal must now go to the state Legislature. Last year, the Long Beach Unified School District did not learn until the end of the school year how much funding Sacramento planned to provide for that year, and the school district experienced more cuts at that time.

LBUSD has cut more than \$100 million over the past five years and must cut \$90 million more over the next two years. That's without counting the additional millions of dollars in local cuts that would result from this latest proposal from the governor.

Rotary Club Honored For \$2.6M in Support

The Board of Education honored Long Beach Rotary this week for providing more than \$2.6 million in scholarships and books to local students since 1998.

The school board at its regular meeting recognized the service club's charitable and scholarship foundations for their significant support of students and schools.

Among the Rotarians accepting the honors was Poly alum and attorney Frank Newell, chairman of the Rotary Scholarship Foundation, which has donated more than \$2.3 million in college scholarships to 2,500 local students since 1998.

This year, more than 130 local students are attending Cal State Long Beach, and more than 100 are attending Long Beach City College, with the help of Rotary scholarships, which now amount to about \$200,000 a year thanks to the donations of Rotary members.

Long Beach Rotary's Charitable Foundation has donated more than 150,000 books to students and school libraries through the Reading (Continued on next page)

McGinnis Sworn In

New school board member John McGinnis took the oath of office last week, returning the Board of Education to its full, five-member contingent for the first time in nearly eight months. McGinnis replaced Michael Ellis, who stopped attending meetings in June and resigned Sept. 1.

The new board member, who is a retired educator, defeated four opponents in a Dec. 29 special election. McGinnis will serve for the remainder of Ellis' unexpired term, which ends in July.

Board Unanimously OKs New High School

The Board of Education voted 5-0 this week to build a new, small high school to prepare more students for college success and high paying, high-demand jobs. The school will occupy the existing DeMille Middle School site located at 7025 Parkcrest St. in East Long Beach.

DeMille's buildings will be replaced with a new Early College Academic and Technical School that is the first of several smaller, thematic high schools listed as priorities in the school district's Facilities Master Plan.

The districtwide facilities plan, developed after many meetings with parents and other neighborhood residents, calls for reducing the number of students at individual LBUSD high school campuses. Several high schools here enroll more than 4,500 students and are among

the largest high schools in California.

The unanimously approved smaller high school will enroll about 1,000 students, helping to alleviate pressure on existing high school campuses.

Much like the school district's California Academy of Mathematics and Science – ranked last month in *U.S. News and World Report's* "America's Best High Schools" as No. 4 in California and No. 22 in America – the new school will attract students from throughout LBUSD who choose to commit to a rigorous, intensive program.

The project will cost more than \$75 million, with funding provided by school construction and modernization bonds recently approved by local voters. The funds may only be used to (Continued on next page)

'Exceptional' Head Start Among Best in U.S.

An independent review of the Long Beach Unified School District's Head Start program for preschoolers, toddlers, infants and pregnant women showed compliance with about 1,900 federal performance standards, maintaining the program's status as a national model.

The recent review included an inspection of documentation, along with interviews and first-hand observations.

The federal monitoring team's final report included numerous accolades. Long Beach Head Start earned praise for its family and community partnerships, strong and multiple collaborations with the city's Health Department, and an innovative approach to engaging parents through a Family Partnership Agreement.

"You have an extremely large program with a lot of t's to cross," one reviewer commented, "and we are proud of the exceptional job that

your program has once again done."

Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood program established nationally in 1965 to alleviate the effects of poverty on preschool children and their families. Long Beach Head Start serves about 2,100 students at 23 sites.

The Long Beach program has earned a reputation as a national leader by repeatedly earning high marks on federal reviews. One of Head Start's teachers, Rosa Hernandez, was named in 2007 among America's top five family literacy teachers by the National Center for Family Literacy.

The California Head Start Association also has recognized the local program, naming Long Beach Head Start Director Linda James Perry Administrator of the Year in 2007, and selecting Long Beach for the association's 2010 Annual Educators' Conference at the Long Beach Renaissance Hotel from Feb. 1 to 5.

• New School OK'd

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build or upgrade schools and cannot be used for salaries or programs.

The new school will serve students in 9th through 12th grades who wish to explore one of three areas of study – Health/Medical, Law Enforcement/Legal Services/Forensics, and Engineering.

Students at the new school will take classes for early college credit as part of a partnership with Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach. The site's location provides easy access to public transportation for traveling to these college courses. Students also will complete the A-G coursework required for admission to the California State University and University of California systems. LBUSD expects to have a waiting list for students to enroll.

At its peak enrollment, the existing DeMille Middle School had served about 1,200 students, so the new high school will enroll fewer students than DeMille once did.

A thorough study conducted in cooperation with the city's traffic engineer shows that traffic on surrounding streets will improve with the new school, due to street improvements and ample on-campus parking and drop-off loops. Ingress and egress will be moved so that the residential area near the school will see far less school-related traffic.

In addition, the buildings will be set back an ample 250 feet from Parkcrest Street, the main residential thoroughfare near the school. That's about 180 feet farther from the street than the current school, creating a large green space and park-like atmosphere.

Construction on the school may start this summer and conclude by fall 2012.

Construction plans include many eco-friendly features such as high efficiency plumbing, lights and insulation, as well as solar power capability, storm water percolation to reduce irrigation needs, strategic window placement to take advantage of natural light, and recycling of 70 percent of construction and demolition debris.

Dance Spectrum

If you want tickets to Dance Spectrum, the annual event featuring performances from all LBUSD high schools, you better hustle. The event sells out quickly.

This year's dance extravaganza is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26 at Poly High School.

Tickets are \$5 presale and \$7 at the door. Contact the dance teacher at your school of choice to purchase tickets. Schools performing include Cabrillo, CAMS, Jordan, Lakewood, Millikan, Poly, Renaissance and Wilson.

Avalon Closure

Avalon K-12 School on Catalina Island was closed as a precaution Thursday, Jan. 21 due to the threat of mud and debris flowing from rain-soaked hillsides. Parents and staff were notified Wednesday evening.

The school district was closely monitoring soil saturation and rainfall forecasts Thursday to determine when to reopen the school, which serves about 640 students. The island has received more than 10 inches of rain over the past four months, which, combined with rain forecasts, prompted this week's closure.



UNANIMOUS DECISION – The school board's 5-0 vote clears the way for construction of the Early College Academic and Technical School, depicted in this aerial rendering. At the top left is Carson Street. A buffer of 250 feet from the buildings to Parkcrest Street, bottom right, allows for ample green space.

Dates to Remember

February	Black History Month National Children's Dental Health Month Fall Semester Ends
1	National Freedom Day
2	Spring Semester Begins
2	Groundhog Day
2	LBUSD/City of Long Beach Groundhog Job Shadow Day
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "George Washington," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
3	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
8	Lincoln Day (Holiday Observed)
8-12	National School Counseling Week
8-14	Take Your Family to School Week
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Valentine's Day," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
10	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "George Washington," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
11	Thomas Alva Edison's Birthday
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Presidents Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
14	Chinese New Year
15	Washington Day (Holiday Observed)
15	Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
17	National PTA Founders Day
17-April 3	Lent
17	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Alexander Graham Bell," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "New Zebra in Town," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Jackie Robinson Story," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
22	George Washington's Birthday
23	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Why We Need Each Other: The Animals' Picnic Day," Grades 1-4, ed.tv 8
24	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Women's History Month," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
25	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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• Rotary Honored

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by 9 program. Each year since 1999, Rotary has passed the hat for contributions to the cause at its meetings, collecting about \$275,000 in donations and matching funds for the literacy effort.

This year for the first time, the Reading by 9 project expanded beyond elementary schools to benefit Child Development Centers. Rotary is putting a new book in the hands of every CDC preschooler this year, and is donating hundreds more books to the school libraries at CDCs and elementary schools.

Rotary also is donating \$30,000 per year toward a semester of free tuition at Long Beach City College for LBUSD graduates under the College Promise program, which is tied to the school district's Academic and Career Success Initiative.

ALBEM Breakfast

The annual Business Partnership Breakfast sponsored by the Association of Long Beach Educational Managers and Confidential Employees is scheduled for 6:45 a.m. Friday, Feb. 26 at The Grand, 4101 E. Willow St., Long Beach.

The event includes recognition of schools' new and continuing business partners, a raffle to fund student scholarships, and a choice between the All American (scrambled eggs with cheese and chives, bacon, hash browns and fruit garnish) or French toast swirled with cinnamon and served with maple syrup, powdered sugar and fruit garnish.

The cost is \$17.50 per person. Reservations must be received by Friday, Feb. 19. Watch for the reservation form from ALBEM, or contact Elizabeth Anklam at 494-5101.

In Memoriam

James Gulek
assistant superintendent,
Research, Planning and Evaluation
Jan. 17, 2010